

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested. Claims 17-20, 22-33 and 35-54 are pending in the application, with claims 17, 30 and 43 being the independent claims.

Based on the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all outstanding rejections.

Interview Summary

Applicants conducted a personal interview March 1, 2004. During the interview, independent claims 17, 30 and 43 were discussed with respect to U.S. Patent No. 5,186,629 to Rohen ("the Rohen patent"). Applicant's representative reiterated the position regarding the Rohen patent set forth in the Reply filed September 12, 2003, which was re-filed with the Request for Continued Examination on October 30, 2003. As agreed during the interview, the Rohen patent fails to disclose or suggest "a resilient material" as recited in claims 17 and 30, and "movement of a casing portion of said mouse device with respect to a bottom portion of said mouse device" as recited in claim 43.

The Examiner indicated that the Office Action mailed on December 12, 2003 will be withdrawn and no response is necessary. The Examiner further stated that a new office action will be issued based on a new search. Nevertheless, Applicant provides this reply for completeness of the record.

Claim Rejections

Claims 17-20, 23, 25-33, 35-37 and 39-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,186,629 to Rohen ("the Rohen patent"). Claims 22, 43-45 and 47-54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Rohen

patent. Claims 22, 24, 38 and 43-54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Rohen patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,868,549 to Affinito et al. ("the Affinito patent"). As agreed during the interview, the Rohen patent fails to disclose or suggest "a resilient material" as recited in claims 17 and 30, and "movement of a casing portion of said mouse device with respect to a bottom portion of said mouse device" as recited in claim 43 and the Office Action will be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

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